

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9479

E.O. 11652: GDR

TAGS: PFOR, AU, YO

SUBJECT: INITIAL GOA REACTION TO LATEST YUGOSLAV NOTE

REF: BELGRADE 5403; VIENNA 9040.

1. SUMMARY: CONTENT AND TONE OF LATEST YUGOSLAV NOTE IS CAUSING AUSTRIANS SOME CONCERN AND CHANCELLOR HIMSELF NOW FULLY SEIZED WITH ISSUE. INITIAL OFFICIAL REACTIONS SUGGEST GOA WILL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE YUGOSLVS ON SEVERAL POINTS IN NOTE AND TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO MANAGE SLOVENE MINORITY ISSUE. GOA LIKELY IN NEXT PERIOD TO TALK UP STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SUBSUMING "SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS" IN NATIONWIDE HEADCOUNT AND TO MOUNT INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER YUGOSLAV CHARGES OF AUSTRIAN VIOLATIONS OF STATE TREATY RE TREATMENT OF SLOVENE MINORITY IN CARINTHIA. END SUMMARY.

2. GOA SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND SOME CONCERN OVER TOUGH TONE AND ENCYCLOPEDIA NATURE OF YUGOSLAV NOTE. THERE EXISTS CONSIDERABLE GOA PUZZLEMENT OVER GOY MOTIVATION TO "PILE ON" AUSTRIANS AT THIS JUNCTURE WITH SUCH LENGTHY LIST OF ALLEGED AUSTRIAN VIOLATIONS AND OMISSIONS WHEN, IN AUSTRIAN VIEW, ONLY IMPORTANT PENDING ISSUE IS ONE OF ERECTION OF BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS IN CARINTHIA. TENDENCY OF AUSTRIAN OFFIC-
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IALDOM IS TO ASCRIBE YUGOSLAV LENGTHY LIST OF COMPLAINTS IN

MAJOR PART TO UNFATHOMABLE YUGOSLAV DOMESTIC POLITICAL OR NATIONALITIES PROBLEMS.

3. YUGOSLAV NOTE REPORTEDLY BEING GIVEN "CAREFUL STUDY" AND THAT BECAUSE OF MAJOR AUSTRIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ON ISSUE, CHANCELLOR HIMSELF IS TAKING "VERY ACTIVE PART" IN ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM.

4. MFA SOURCES SUGGEST THAT GOA WILL ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE YUGOSLAVS ON SEVERAL POINTS IN NOTE (E.G. RETURN OF ARCHIVES), TO IGNORE OTHER POINTS (PROPAGANDA CHARGES), AND TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO MANAGE, BUT NOT RESOLVE, SLOVENE MINORITY ISSUE, PARTICULARLY BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS ASPECT, UNTIL NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1975.

5. IN INTERVENING PERIOD, GOA WILL PROBABLY TALK UP STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SUBSUMING "SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS" (WHICH VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED BY SLOVENE MINORITY LEADERS IN CARINTHIA AND THEIR GOY SUPPORTERS) IN NATIONWIDE CENSUS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ANNOUNCING METHODOLOGY AND SPECIFIC DATE FOR SUCH HEAD COUNT. GOA ALSO LIKELY TO MOUNT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON STATUS OF SLOVENE MINORITY TO AUSTRIA AND ON BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITY ISSUE TO COUNTER WHAT GOA FEELS TO BE INCREASINGLY GROSSLY EXAGGERATED OR FACTUALLY INCORRECT CLAIMS OF SLOVENE MINORITY LEADERS AND THEIR YUGOSLAV SUPPORTERS OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AGAINST AUSTRIAN CITIZENS OF SLOVENE ETHNIC ORIGIN. MOWINCKEL

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